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GEN. FREMONT'S LETTER.

GENTLEMEN: In answer to a letter, which I have had the honor to receive from you, on the part of the representatives of the people assembled at Cleveland, the 31st of May, I desire to express my thanks for the confidence which led them to offer me the honorable and difficult position of their candidate in the approaching presidential election.

Very honorable, because in offering it to me, you act in the name of a great number of citizens, who seek above all things the good of their country, and who have no sort of selfish interest in view. Very difficult, because in accepting the candidacy you propose to me, I am exposed to the reproach of creating a schism in the party with which I have been identified.

Had Mr Lincoln remained faithful to the principles he was elected to defend, no schism could have been created and no contest would have been possible. This is not an ordinary election; it is a contest for the right even to have candidates, and not merely, as usual, for the choice among them. Now for the first time since 1776, the question of constitutional liberty has been brought directly before the people for their serious consideration and vote. The ordinary right secured under the Constitution, and the laws of the country have been violated and extraordinary powers have been usurped by the Executive. It is directly before the people now to say whether or not the principles established by the revolution are worth maintaining.

It, as we have been taught to believe, those guarantees for liberty which made the distinctive name and glory of our country, are in truth inviolably sacred, then there must be a protest against the arbitrary violation which had not even the excuse of necessity. The schism is made by those who force the choice between a shameful silence or a protest against wrong. In such considerations originated the Cleveland Convention. It was among its objects to arouse the attention of the people to such facts, and to bring them to realize that, while we are saturating southern soil with the best blood of the country, in the name of liberty, we have really parted with it at home.

To day we have in the country the abuses of military dictation without its unity of action and vigor of execution. An administration marked at home by disregard of constitutional rights, by its violation of personal liberty and the liberty of the press, and as a crowning shame, by its abandonment of the right of asylum, a right especially dear to all free nations abroad, its course has been characterized by a feebleness and want of principle which has misled European powers and driven them to a belief that only commercial interests and personal aims are concerned, and that no great principles are involved in the issue. The admirable conduct of the people, their readiness to make every sacrifice demanded of them, their forbearance and silence under the sus-

pension of everything that could be suspended, their many acts of heroism and sacrifices, were all rendered fruitless by the incapacity, or, to speak more exactly, by the personal ends for which the war was managed. This incapacity and selfishness naturally produced such results as led the European powers, and logically enough, to the conviction that the North, with its great, superior population, its immense resources, and its credit, will never be able to coerce the South. Sympathies which should have been with us from the outset of this war were turned against us, and in this way the administration has done the country a double wrong abroad. It created hostility, or at best indifference, among those who would have been its friends if the real intentions of the people could have been better known, while at the same time it neglected no occasion for making the most humiliating concessions.

Against this disastrous condition of affairs the Cleveland Convention was a protest.

The principles which form the basis of its platform have my unqualified and cordial approbation, but I cannot so heartily concur in all the measures which you propose. I do not believe that confiscation, extended to the property of all rebels, is practicable, and if it were so, I do not think it a measure of sound policy. It is, in fact, a question belonging to the people themselves to decide, and is a proper occasion for the exercise of their original and sovereign authority. As a war measure, in the beginning of a revolt, which might be quelled by prompt severity, I understand the policy of confiscation; but not as a final measure of reconstruction after the suppression of an insurrection.

In the adjustments which are to follow peace, no consideration of vengeance can consistently be admitted.

The object of the war is to make permanently secure the peace and happiness of the whole country, and there was but a single element in the way of its attainments. This element of slavery may be considered practically destroyed in the country, and it needs only your proposed amendment of the Constitution, to make its extinction complete.

With this extinction of slavery the party divisions created by it have also disappeared. And if in the history of the country there has ever been a time when the American people, without regard to one or another of the political divisions, were called upon to give solemnly their voice in a matter which involved the safety of the United States, it is assuredly the present time.

If the convention at Baltimore will nominate any man whose past life justifies a well-grounded confidence in his fidelity to our cardinal principles, there is no reason why there should be any division among the really patriotic men of the country. To any such I shall be most happy to give a cordial and active support.

My own decided preference is to aid in this way, and not to be myself a candidate. But if Mr. Lincoln should be nominated, as I believe, it would be fatal to the country to endorse a policy and renew a power, which has cost us the lives of thousands of men and needlessly put the country on the road to bankruptcy, there will remain no other alternative but to organize against him every element of conscientious opposition with the view to prevent the misfortune of his re-election.

In this contingency, I accept the nomination at Cleveland, and as a preliminary step, I have resigned my commission in the army. This was a sacrifice it gave me pain to make. But

I had for a long time fruitlessly endeavored to obtain service. I make the sacrifice now only to regain liberty of speech, and to leave nothing in the way of discharging to my utmost ability the task you have set for me.

With my earnest and sincere thanks for your expressions of confidence and regard, and for the many honorable terms in which you acquaint me with the actions of the committee.

I am, gentlemen,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

J. C. FREMONT.

New York 4, June, 1864.

In an article on the "Expenses of the U. S. Government," the N. Y. Herald says:—"Owing to the largely increased expenses of the government, officially announced by Mr. Chase in his proposals for the new loan, it is estimated that four millions a day will hardly be sufficient to meet the accumulating requisitions upon the Treasury. The causes of this great increase of expenditures are apparent. The total number of men called out for the army under the various proclamations up to this time is two millions one hundred and thirty-nine thousand. Added to this source of expense is the navy, including five hundred and eighty-eight vessels and forty-four thousand seamen. The loans and liabilities authorized by acts of Congress, which are now nearly all exhausted, amount to two thousand seven hundred and seventy-four millions, nine hundred and twelve thousand, eight hundred and eighteen dollars. During the years 1862 and 1863 the expenses of the government did not exceed two millions per day; but they have now been run up to four millions daily by the increase of prices, as well as of the army and navy and interest on the public debt."

The slaves in the counties of Daviess, Henderson and Union, in Kentucky, are deserting the plantations by scores, and wending their way to the Federal lines. The Louisville Journal says "the blacks are entirely demoralized and cannot be controlled by their masters." It adds:—"Squads of negro soldiers, under command of recruiting officers, are scouting the country for the purpose of inducing slaves to desert their owners and following them into camp and enlist in the military service. The able-bodied men are received into the service, but the feeble old men, the women and children, must necessarily become 'camp followers,' idle, worthless vagabonds, spreading a demoralizing influence throughout the camps. Large crops have been planted, but they must go to waste."

The Baltimore Republican Convention was yesterday organized by electing Ex-Governor Dennison of Ohio, president, with the usual number of vice presidents and secretaries. After transacting some other business, the convention adjourned until ten o'clock this morning. It was supposed the nominations for President and Vice President would be made to-day.

Several dogs have recently been killed in the streets, and "muzzles" are now the fashion.